

MEETING MINUTES  
DISABLED ADVISORY COUNCIL (DAC)  
OPTIONS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC. in GREEN BAY  
DECEMBER 16, 2005

Members in attendance: Chair Werner Burkat, Vice-Chair John Kocourek, Jim Rutledge, Tom Zimmer, and Dave Lato.

Members in attendance via conference call: Steve Johnson, Dave Stinson and alternate Dale Petkovsek.

Members absent: John Mitchell and Joe Greene.

DNR staff in attendance: Dotti Krieger (via conference call), Julie Amakobe, Bill Schwengel, Kurt Thiede, Tom Bahti, Carl Mesman and Al Czesinski.

Chair Burkat called the meeting to order at approximately 10:10 a.m.

The meeting began by reviewing/approving the agenda.

**John Kocourek made a motion to approve the agenda. Jim seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

Next on the agenda was the review and approval of the DAC meeting minutes from September 9, 2005. There was one clarification, that being on top of page 4, first sentence, the word “can” should be replaced with the word “must”.

**Jim made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Tom seconded the motion and all were in favor.**

**Agenda item** - Survey results from reviewing State Parks regarding disabled turkey hunting. Jim started off the discussion. He and Anthonette Gilpatrick were to go to New Glarus Woods State Park (SP) and Belmont Mound SP but they could not find the common time to do this, so Anthonette did the surveys. Julie had copies of the survey results that Anthonette had done. Julie read the highlights on New Glarus Woods survey and read the entire survey on Belmont Mound. Julie will send copies of the reports to all members.

**Agenda item** – Turkey hunting and allowing terminally ill children to go on special hunts. Kurt Thiede led the discussion with Tom Bahti also giving some further explanations during the discussion. Kurt had some handouts, one being “2<sup>nd</sup> Permits over the Counter”, displaying some of the figures of permits available that could be used for terminally ill children providing a rule change would be accepted. Kurt explained what the proposed rule change would be and wanted feedback from the DAC members.

In the 05-07 budget, the department does allow second permits at the cost of \$10.00 per resident and \$15.00 per non-resident on a first come, first served basis. Current State

Parks available for disabled turkey hunting are Belmont Mound, Kettle Moraine SF-Loew Lake Unit, Nelson Dewey, New Glarus Woods, Natural Bridge and Rocky Arbor.

A couple of questions came up. John Kocourek asked, if these second permits are awarded by a drawing, where would the drawing take place, and the answer was Madison. Dale asked, do we utilize all of the permits, and it was estimated on an average that 4 out of 6 seem to be used. An answer to a question Jim asked was that a person can get more than one permit, but they would have to be for different areas. Jim also made a comment that some parks don't have staff on site, so that would make it difficult to know if a site is available for a disabled hunter.

Kurt mentioned that as of March 10, 2006, you will be able to go to an ALIS terminal to purchase a permit. You can also use your own terminal to apply on-line or you can call the 800 number. Surplus permits will be available at Service Centers and State Parks.

John Kocourek asked how were the original 6 State Parks picked for disabled hunting, and no one knew. Tom had a question on the form (# 2300-271) for getting permission from a landowner to hunt on his land, and Jim said it is a simple form to fill out, and the landowner needs to sign, and then you mail it to the local Wildlife Biologist. A comment was made that some of the Service Centers staff do not know/are not aware of this form. This needs to be improved on...suggestions on improving were to put this out on the Bureau of Wildlife Management web site, include in newsletters, and do press releases. Jim also suggested a routing change for special turkey hunting permits, that they go to the local Warden rather than the area Wildlife Biologist. Bill said that the code says this is routed to the DNR office located in the county where the landowner is located. These forms are due Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.

There is a rule in process to add 3 state parks for the Spring 2007 turkey hunts. The 3 state parks are Interstate, Newport and Willow River, and they will be available for disabled and non-disabled hunters.

Regarding small game hunting, back in 1997 the department allowed small game hunting in some state parks. Now the thought is to possibly allow small game hunting in all state parks. In 2002, a 3 year pilot was started in 4 state parks: Governor Dodge, Mill Bluff, Mirror Lake and Newport. In this pilot, there seemed to not be any conflicts with park users.

Kurt requested the DAC input/preference on how permits for the disabled-only turkey hunting parks should be distributed. The DAC preferred that they be made available only at DNR Service Centers. This way it was assured that only disabled permit holders would be allowed to purchase the surplus permits for the disabled-only parks.

**The DAC endorses the advancement of any small game hunting opportunities for the disabled.**

At the 2006 Springs Hearings, there is a proposal to add High Cliff SP for deer hunting for calendar year 2006. Kurt extended an invite to all the DAC members to come and speak at these hearings.

Kurt also wanted to talk about bear hunting for terminally ill children. This came up last year by the United Special Sportsman Alliance headed by Brigit O'Donahue from Pittsville. Her interest is to put a bill forward to allow for a "learn to hunt" for bear hunting. The department did a "first time" learn to bear hunt and there was 14 participants. A hunt did take place with 2 terminally ill kids from Wisconsin in Rusk County; they took 1 bear and 2 deer. Kurt asked how do we want to go forward for bear hunting for terminally ill children? The department can hold "learn to bear hunt" by policy. Over the last 3 years an average of 150 bear tags were not utilized per year. Should we take 50% of that, or 75 bear tags per year for "learn to bear hunt"? Should it be on a first come, first serve basis? Questions/comments from DAC members were: Tom and Dale...why would we offer this to non-residents? Jim believes that there isn't enough terminally ill children in Wisconsin. John Kocourek said that we should somehow find out how many terminally ill children are in Wisconsin. And Dave Lato supported the idea of having bear tags available for a special hunt for terminally ill children.

Kurt mentioned that the department does have staff that are dedicated to this idea and also the Wisconsin Bear Hunting Association is a dedicated organization behind this effort.

**The DAC supports a "learn to bear hunt" as discussed and it should include disabled, terminally ill children as well as non-disabled, non-terminally ill children.**

Steve also mentioned that we may also want to expand to terminally ill adults.

**The agenda item "Action Requests review" was moved to later in the meeting.**

**Agenda item** - Legislative/Rule Update. Bill had a handout which was a copy of the Wisconsin State Legislature web page which he reviewed. He wanted all in attendance to be aware of how a bill can be tracked as it progresses through the legislature.

Jim had a question. What was the status of the legislation regarding having an uncased/unloaded gun or an uncased crossbow in a moving vehicle or ATV?

Werner interrupted that since Bill informed all prior to this meeting that he is giving up his DAC responsibilities, Werner want to let Bill know that he will be missed. There was a round of applause. Werner continued that his input and representation of Law Enforcement (LE) has been invaluable to the DAC. Bill responded that it goes both ways because he has learned a lot about the disabled by attending the DAC meetings and by doing research on disabled matters. Tom appreciated that Bill always kept an open mind on all issues. And John Kocourek and Jim said that Bill should be commended for his work, dedication and sense of responsibility in supporting the efforts of the DAC.

**Agenda item** - Member's updates/Other issues. Jim had attended a December 8<sup>th</sup> DNR hearing held in Dodgeville. He spoke on the subject of the early spring hunts and small game hunts regarding the disabled hunter. He also said the Wisconsin Paralyzed Veterans organization is interested in getting disabled youth involved in trap shooting, and the organization will cover expenses for any disabled youth to attend any trap shoot.

The National organization will again hold a National Wheelchair trap shoot in Brown County on July 14-16, 2006.

Dave Lato thanked Dale for the hunt that he put on in Clark County. It was an exciting event, and there are great landowners involved in the hunt. Dave also mentioned that Minnesota does have a concealed carry law and does allow hunting on a 4-wheeler with a loaded hand gun.

Bill also thanked Dale for the great hunt in Clark County. Bill also handed out an article entitled "Disabled deer slayer sets up hunt" for everyone to read, and also said that the 2004 LE Report is available.

Dave Stinson said that he thought Minnesota and Michigan allowed 4 to 6 wheel ATV's on any trail. The WI statute allows ATVs that are 48" wide and 900 lbs. maximum in weight. A question came up if that rule is only for state trails?

Dale said that he is having a disabled ATV ride in Clark County land next year and 3 people are signed up to do it so far. Clark County will allow non-registered machines per a one-day variance.

Steve said the National American Squirrel Association (NASA) held its first disabled deer hunt, 24 hunters had signed up, 16 showed, and 11 deer were taken. They are waiting for the fishing pier specs regarding the Lake Onalaska project, and they hope to get the Lake Neshonoc pier in before the Spring opening.

Dotti said it was 62 degrees in Sedona, and she will be back to work on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Agenda item** – Action Requests review. Julie led the discussion. This is a continuation from the last meeting. We started where we left off, on page 2, at the Ongoing: break on the page. The action request is stated and the action taken follows.

1. Dr. Schumacher suggested several changes to Class A, Class B and Class C permits. Sally Pathos suggested upper quadrant statutory change to Crossbow permit. Bill suggested as a contact Steve Hofmeister, Marshfield Clinic in Minocqua, (715-358-1437), for testing procedures. Any new criteria would require a statutory change. He wants to meet with the DAC and pick up where Sally left off.
2. Remember to put ATVs access to public lands in brochure, etc.
3. Mount Hope needs a project request to make the path accessible (beach parking lot to the dike)...a 9300-197 needs to be sent in from the Region.
4. Cadiz Springs, Lake Beckman, needs to fix the pier railing height. Has a pier been built on the west side of the lake? This is a current project of the Friends Group.
5. Anthonette needs to follow up on Devils Lake retrofitting existing shelter into an accessible cabin...
6. A crossbow hunter to take rough fish needs a statutory change, a housekeeping matter...keep open at this time.
7. PCV piping...complete.
8. Manual Code – Service Centers need standardized procedures...complete.

9. Dotti to give Dave Lato some federal grant information to help Fishing Has No Boundaries...complete.
10. DNR to initiate a design for a combination fishing and docking facility that would include handrails on one side and grab bars on the docking side...complete.
11. DNR needs to adapt a technical advisory system for new designs...complete.
12. Werner asked if it is prohibited to fish from a dock...complete.
13. An administrative code change is necessary to change the dollar amount designated for docks versus the amount used for fishing piers...this can not be changed, but more piers are now being funded.
14. DAC is to write a letter to Secretary Hassett requesting the reason why the Accessibility Coordinator position is being eliminated...complete.
15. Dotti and Julie will proceed to procure awards. Nominations for these awards should come from the DAC members before April 7, 2006...Dotti and Al to work on this.
16. Acceptance letter to Kimberly-Clark for donation...complete.
17. Bill is waiting for a report/survey in order to support his proposal to allow Class B permit holders to be allowed in the specialized hunts...complete.
18. The word needs to get out to the Service Centers regarding the application for the special turkey hunts for persons with disabilities...Kurt Thiede will do.
19. Jim asked that since Cadiz Springs is drawing down Lake Beckman, it is now a good time to make things more accessible in the area...this is a current project.
20. It was proposed that Mr. Petkovsek get some sort of recognition...complete.
21. The Wisconsin Segway, a mobility device, is not currently allowed on trails...invite Parks Trail Coordinator to the April 7, 2006 meeting to speak on this.
22. The DAC should send a letter to get the manual code up to date regarding the "greater than 1 year and up to 5 years for the Class B permit"...complete.
23. Dotti will send the members the updated handout on the four categories for the awards...complete.
24. The DAC should annually review this award process, the criteria, etc...add to the agenda for the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.
25. An Action Request Form (ARF) request was initiated by Steve Johnson regarding a day to be set aside on the State Trails where persons with disabilities could use vehicles in order to experience the trails...Werner to send a letter to Friends groups to see if they will assist in such an event.
26. The phone number of the place where the DAC meeting is to be held should be added to the agenda...complete.
27. Dotti let the Council know that management decided that there would be a fishing pier and a boarding dock, no combination of the two...complete.
28. In regards to the review process of fishing piers and boarding docks, there will be a professional engineer review for all designs for all projects...complete.
29. The Rating Committee that rates the priorities of fishing piers is considering changes to give priority to DNR for fishing access. Dotti will keep the DAC informed and inform the property managers how to get fishing pier dollars when the system is changed...complete.
30. Dotti will send pictures electronically to all members of the newly installed Potawatomi pier...complete.
31. Steve Lewis needs to be informed about the Coon Valley fishing site...complete.

32. Rocky Arbor SP should be checked out for accessibility since there have been some complaints...complete.

Because of time, we will continue with this agenda item at the next meeting.

Bill introduced Carl Mesman. Carl is going to be the new LE representative for the Council. Bill will be working with Carl in the next couple of months to transition him to be current with the items regarding the Council. Carl is a Law Enforcement Supervisor, located in Wautoma, and is a member of the Wautoma Warden Team.

The next DAC meeting is April 7<sup>th</sup>. Al will check into having the meeting at Kohler-Andrae SP or the Schmeeckle Reserve in Stevens Point. ***01/09/06 – THE APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup> MEETING WILL BE AT THE SCHMEECKLE RESERVE IN STEVENS POINT.***

**Werner suggested that we adjourn since it was 2:40 and snowing. Steve Johnson made the motion, Tom seconded, and all were in favor.**

The meeting was adjourned.